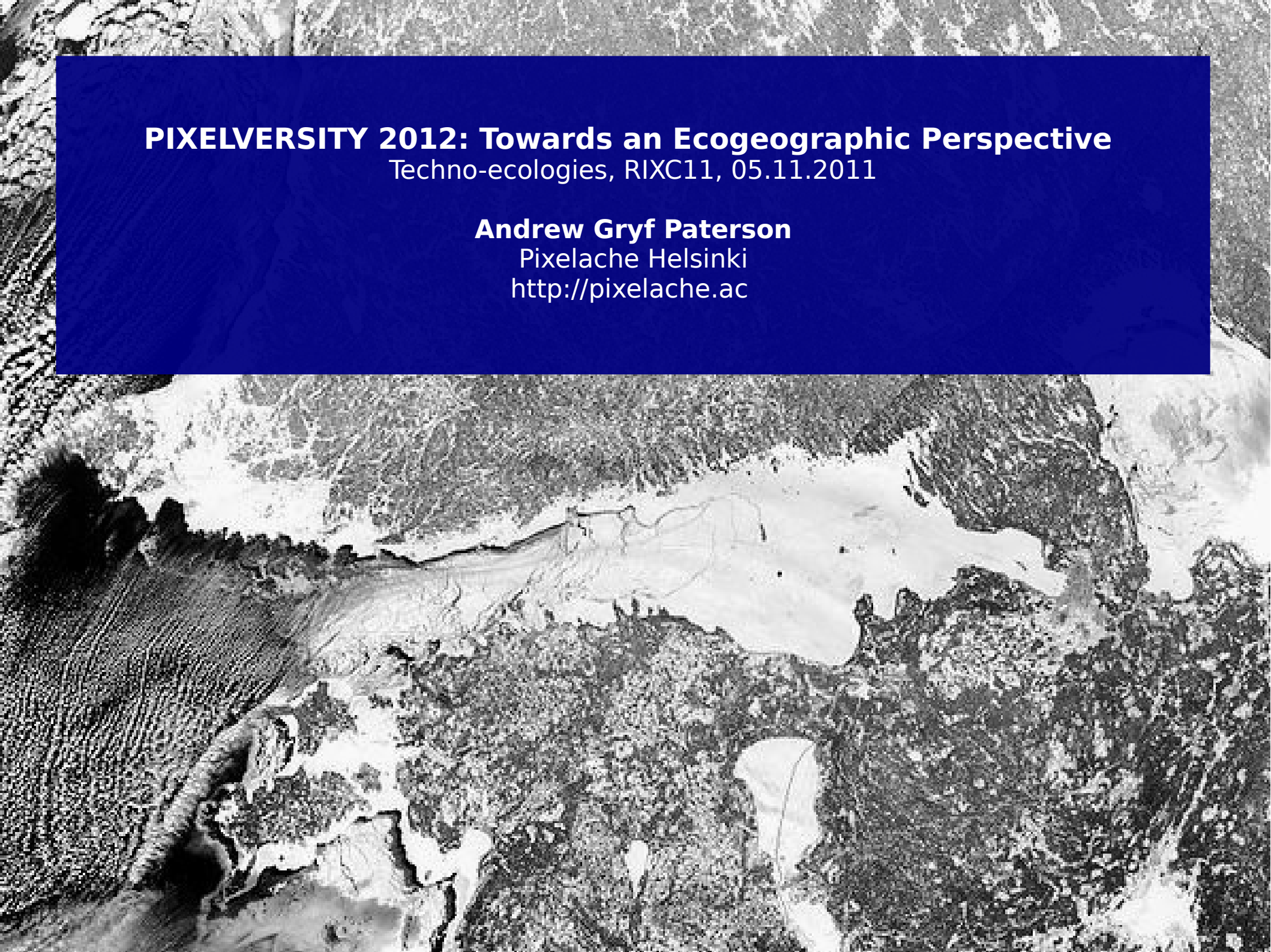
# PIXELVERSITY 2012: Towards an Ecogeographic Perspective

Techno-ecologies, RIXC11, 05.11.2011

**Andrew Gryf Paterson**
Pixelache Helsinki
http://pixelache.ac



**MY BACKGROUND**
Scottish artist-organiser in the cultural field, independent researcher..

* Adopted different approaches from network culture & applied them to temporary collaborative productions in Finland, Estonia, Latvia & elsewhere

* Interested in writing narratives about these experiences, & connecting them to practice-led cultural research, as well as cooperative research & pedagogy.

**Since 01.2011..**

Part-time employed by Finnish non-profit cultural association
*Piknik Frequency* (organisers of *Pixelache Helsinki*)

I facilitate & coordinate an informal outreach and pedagogical programme called 'Pixelversity'..

Http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity

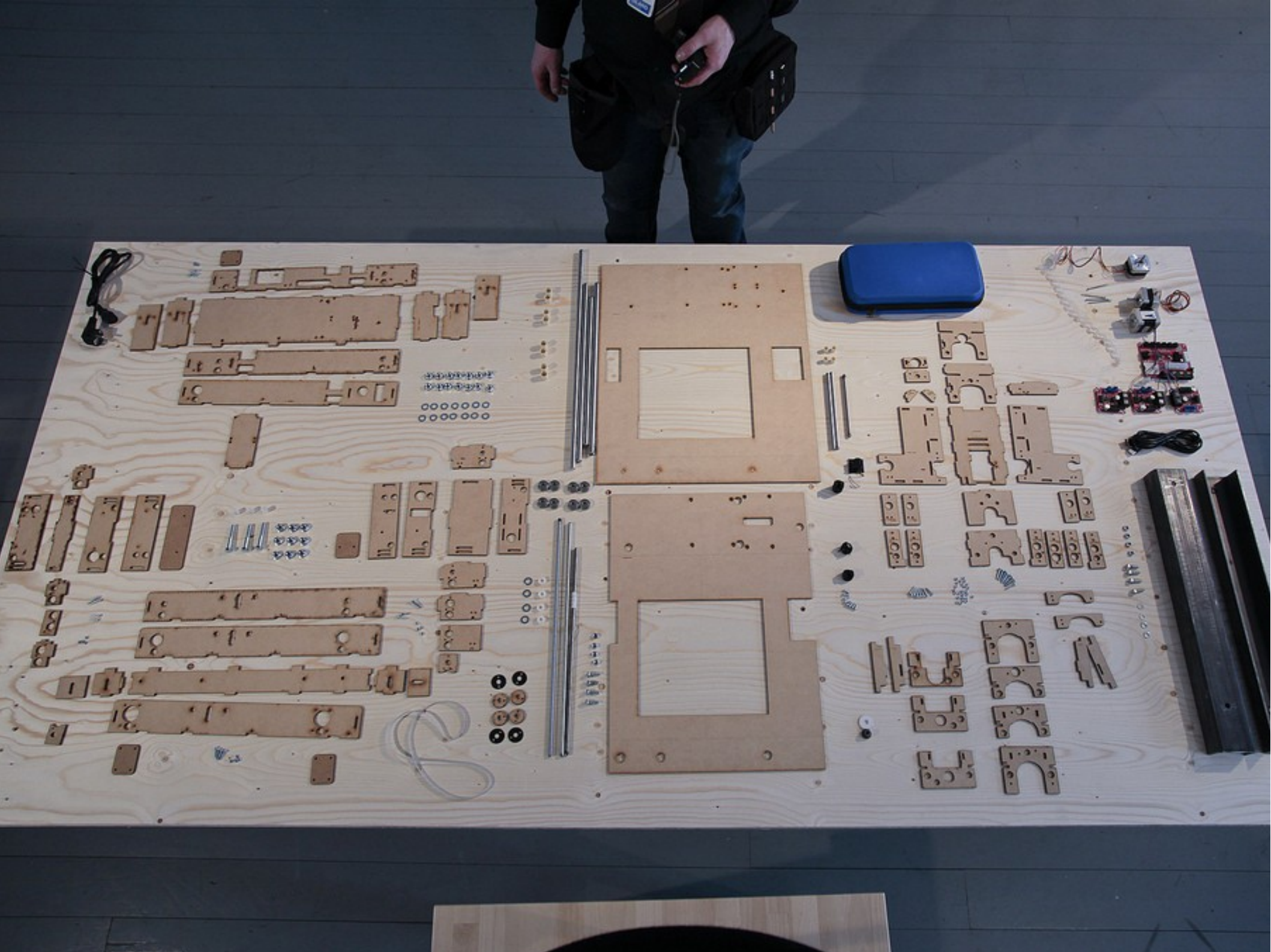
## PIXELACHE HELSINKI

**Multi-disciplinary platform since 2002-** organised by *Piknik Frequency ry.*
* for developing & presenting **experimental art, design, research** projects
* broad range of interests
* “Open Source and New Media Artists” (Ref: K. Halonen)

**"Organised Network"** of people
~ 12-15 association members, 3-4 staff (2-3 part-time & 1 full-time)
~ 10-15 regular professional friends or unaffiliated associates, not all in FI
+ 3-5 active international partner nodes (Bergen, Reykjavik, Paris, Dakar..)

**Range of motivations:**
* way to present recent professional practice
* present work of established international artists, curators, theorists
* fun, hobby event to test or experiment with prototypes,
* for a lucky handful it is a mix of all

Developing friendships, collaborators and peers, but also
**A cluster of several "communities of practice"**,
who share concern and passion for what they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly (Ref: E. Wenger)
* with each other
* with other organisations and institutions
* with other publics and communities



## KNOWLEDGE SHARING & PEDAGOGY AMONG PEERS

*Piknik Frequency/Pixelache Helsinki* is part of a regional and international network of similar practitioners, organisers and producers.

**How do we learn from our peers—labs, organisations, networks, individual practitioners and artistic communities—in the independent media arts and networked cultural scene of Europe?**

* Sharing information about events and ideas remotely online,
* Travel attending gatherings or festivals.

Regular feature at physical gatherings:
* **Workshops and discussion seminars**
* Sharing new skills or introducing new projects or ways of working

Development from the ‘Do-It-Yourself’ initiative (D.I.Y.)..
Into a ‘Do-It-Ourselves’ or **‘Do-It-With-Others’** (D.I.W.O.)
(Ref: Furtherfield.org)

Trend towards social and community learning: learning from peers and experience, as well as learning by doing, and doing it together

**PROGRAMME 2011 -**

PI::ELVERSITY

# PIXELVERSITY

The outreach & education programme of Pixelache Helsinki scene around the year

Pixelache-festivaalin toimintakenttää laajentava ympärivuotinen koulutusohjelma

Pixelache-festivalens året runt-aktiva, utåtriktade och uppsökande utbildningsverksamhet

Pixelache Helsinki raames kogu aasta vältel asetleidev teavitus- ja haridusprogramm

является пропагандистской и образовательной программысцене Pixelache Хельсинки в течение всего года

**www.pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity**

**PIXELVERSITY**
**Term used by *Piknik Frequency/Pixelache Helsinki* since 2008-**
But only since 2010 has programme been facilitated and planned in advance.

**Outreach & education programme ongoing throughout year**
(beyond the usual 1-week festival period)

* Some events share & sustain ongoing local practice by association members
* Other events benefit from serendipity & specialists visiting Helsinki or region

In 2011 the programme was formed from nominations by association members, building up capacity and knowledge identifying activity for 2012

* **Support to travel and spend time together**
* **Outreach extending beyond Helsinki to partner associations**
  - Artists in the Archipalego, Kemiö, SW Finland
  - MIM Project & Plektrum Festival, Tallinn, Estonia
  - Pispala Cultural Association, Tampere
  - Centre for Independent Social Research, St. Petersburg, Russia

Promoted as a **'learning bridge'** between practitioners, cultural and non-profit organisations, interested individuals and larger institutions.

http://pixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity

DAVE GRIFFITHS PRESENTS FO.AM, PIXELACHE OFFICE, HELSINKI, 22.2.2011

HENRY COLLINS PRESENTS VIDEO/DATA-BENDING, PIXELACHE OFFICE, HELSINKI, 24.2.2011

OPEN CIRCLE DISCUSSION ON NETWORKED CULTURE & EDUCATION, PIXELACHE FESTIVAL
SUOMENLINNA, 13.3.2011

EDWARD SHANKEN PRESENTS CONTEMPORARY ART AND NEW MEDIA: A HYDBRID DISCOURSE, AALTO UNIVERSITY, HELSINKI, 14.3.2011

KUEBIKO ‘SCARECROWS AND OTHER WAYS OF CARE-TAKING’ SEMINAR, SAGALUND MUSEUM, KEMIÖ, SW FINLAND, 9.4.2011

KUEBIKO ‘SCARECROWS AND OTHER WAYS OF CARE-TAKING’ SEMINAR, SAGALUND MUSEUM, KEMIÖ, SW FINLAND, 9.4.2011

KUEBIKO OUTDOOR ELECTRONICS LAB, TAMMENPÄÄ-KIPPILÄ HOME, KEMIÖ, SW FINLAND, 20-22.5.2011

KUEBIKO OUTDOOR ELECTRONICS LAB, TAMMENPÄÄ-KIPPILÄ HOME, KEMIÖ, SW FINLAND, 20-22.5.2011

JON IRIGOYEN & OTTO KARVONEN LEAD KALLIO EXPEDITION: USES AND ABUSES OF PUBLIC SPACE, HELSINKI, 18-19.6.2011

JON IRIGOYEN & OTTO KARVONEN LEAD KALLIO EXPEDITION: USES AND ABUSES OF PUBLIC SPACE, HELSINKI, 18-19.6.2011

JON IRIGOYEN & OTTO KARVONEN LEAD KALLIO EXPEDITION: USES AND ABUSES OF PUBLIC SPACE, HELSINKI, 18-19.6.2011

UNCONFERENCE ON ART & SUSTAINABILITY, JENSEN-LOND HOME / MIM STUDIO, 35KM FROM TALLINN, 28-31.7.2011

UNCONFERENCE ON ART & SUSTAINABILITY, JENSEN-LOND HOME / MIM STUDIO, 35KM FROM TALLINN, 28-31.7.2011

MOLLY SCOTT CATO PRESENTS GREEN ECONOMICS, DEMOS HELSINKI OFFICE, HELSINKI, 23.8.2011

PRESENTING PIXELVERSITY IN PEDAGOGY TRACK OF ICA GLOBAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE, RURALIA INSTITUTE, MIKKELI, 24-26.8.2011

ixelache.ac/helsinki/pixelversity/programme-2011/coop-camp/

PIXELACHE

FESTIVAL OF ELECTRONIC ART AND SUBCULTURES

Pixelache Helsinki is a multi-disciplinary platform for developing and presenting experimental art, design and research projects. >>> more

HOME | FESTIVAL | PROJECTS | PIXELVERSITY | ABOUT | CONTACT | NETWORK | SUOMEKSI

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## PIXELVERSITY

PROGRAMME 2011 » PAST 2010 » BACKGROUND »

# 9-11.9. COOP CAMP

(Scroll down for English & Ohjelma/Schedule)

Tampereella 9.-11.9. järjestettävä Coop Camp on monialainen tapahtumaviikonloppu, jonka tavoitteena on luoda siltaa epämuodollisen yhdessä tekemisen, osuuskuntatoiminnan ja [illegible] vaille.

[illegible] jakaantuu näkemyksiin ja kokemuksiin pirkanmaalaisesta ja suomalaisesta [illegible] ottuvuutta unohtamatta. Tampereen keskustassa ja Pispalassa tapahtuva Coop Camp -viikonloppu koostuu kutsuttujen luoennoitsijoiden presentaatioista perjantaina ja epämuodollisista esityksistä ja keskusteluista lauantaina.

COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011

## RADAR

FESTIVAL

PIXELACHE2011 ▶

ARCHIVE: 2002 – 2010 ▶

CALENDAR

JUN|18 Kallio Expedition: Uses and Abuses of Public Space

JUL|28 Unconference on Art and Sustainability

AUG|15 Piksel11 Open Call Deadline

AUG|23 Molly Scott Cato presents Green Economics

SEP|09 Coop Camp, Tampere

SEP|13 Pixelversity seminar at Plektrum Festival, Tallinn

SEP|16 Open P2P Design: How to co-design an Open Design community

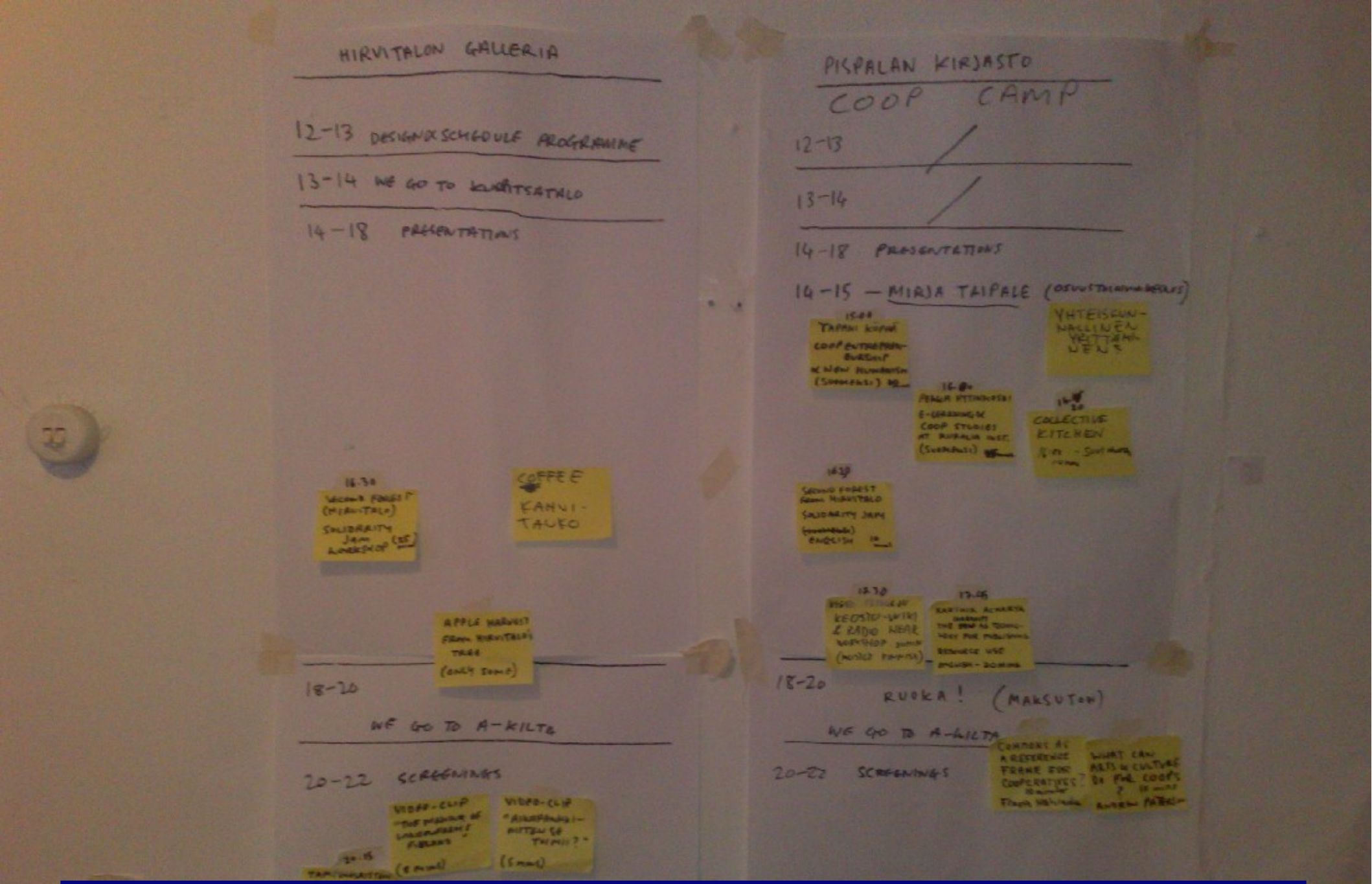
RECENT BLOG POSTS

Curated Expedition to the Baltic Sea: Aquatrio in Turku

Upcoming Cooperative Research and [illegible]

Piksel11 – open call

FRANZ NAHRADA PRESENTS GLOBAL VILLAGES NETWORKS, COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011




COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011

COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011

MIRJA TAIPALE PRESENTS HOW TO FORM A COOPERATIVE, COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011

17.30

KYÖSTI YLIKOLJU

KEOSTO-WIKI & RADIO HEAR WORKSHOP 20MIN (MOSTLY FINNISH)

17.45

KARTHIK ACHARYA

THE ~~SELF~~ COMMUNITY AS TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLISHING

RESOURCE USE

ENGLISH - 20MINS

18-20 RUOKA! (MAKSUTON)

WE GO TO A-KILTA

20-22 SCREENINGS

COMMONS AS A REFERENCE FRAME FOR COOPERATIVES? 10 minutes

Franz Nahrada

WHAT CAN ARTS & CULTURE DO FOR COOPS? 10 mins

ANDREW PATERSON

COOP CAMP, HUB TAMPERE / KURPITSATALO / HIRVITALO / PISPALA LIBRARY / A-KILTA, PISPALA-TAMPERE, 09-11.9.2011

PIXELVERSITY SEMINAR IN PLEKTRUM FESTIVAL, KANUTI GILDI SAAL, TALLINN, 13.9.2011

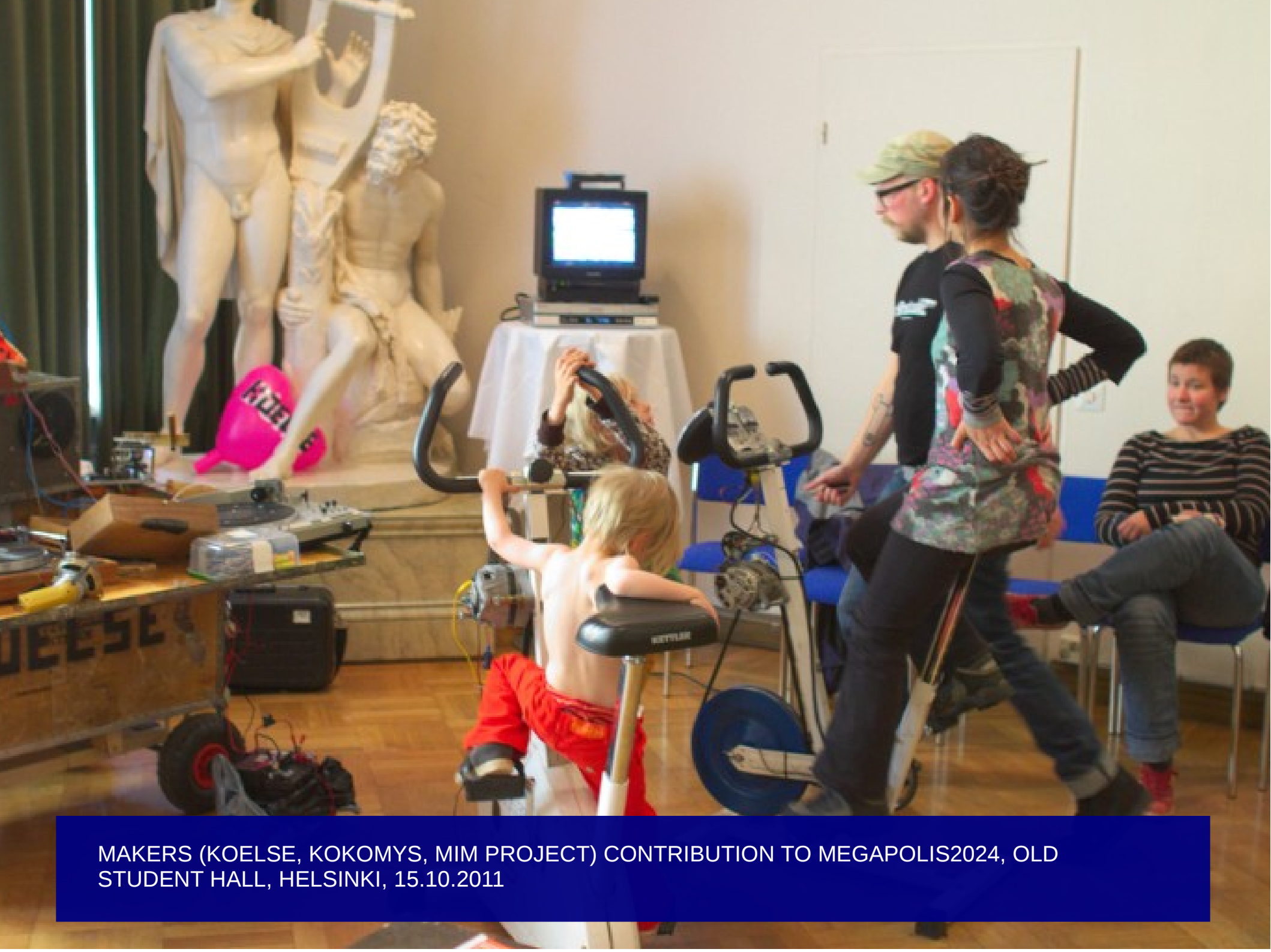
LILIA VORONKOVA PRESENTS ART-(SOCIAL)SCIENCE PROJECTS, PIXELVERSITY SEMINAR IN PLEKTRUM FESTIVAL, KANUTI GILDI SAAL, TALLINN, 13.9.2011

OPEN P2P DESIGN LECTURES & WORKSHOP LED BY MASSIMO MENICHINELLI, PIXELACHE OFFICE, HELSINKI, 16-24.9.2011

OPEN P2P DESIGN LECTURES & WORKSHOP LED BY MASSIMO MENICHINELLI, PIXELACHE OFFICE, HELSINKI, 16-24.9.2011

MICHEL BAUWENS PRESENTS IN OPEN P2P DESIGN LECTURES & WORKSHOP LED BY MASSIMO MENICHINELLI, PIXELACHE OFFICE, HELSINKI, 16-24.9.2011

MAKERS (KOELSE, KOKOMYS, MIM PROJECT) CONTRIBUTION TO MEGAPOLIS2024, OLD STUDENT HALL, HELSINKI, 15.10.2011



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ARTIST (JUSTIN TYLER TATE) CONTRIBUTION TO ALTERNATIVE PARTY, CABLE FACTORY, HELSINKI, 22.10.2011

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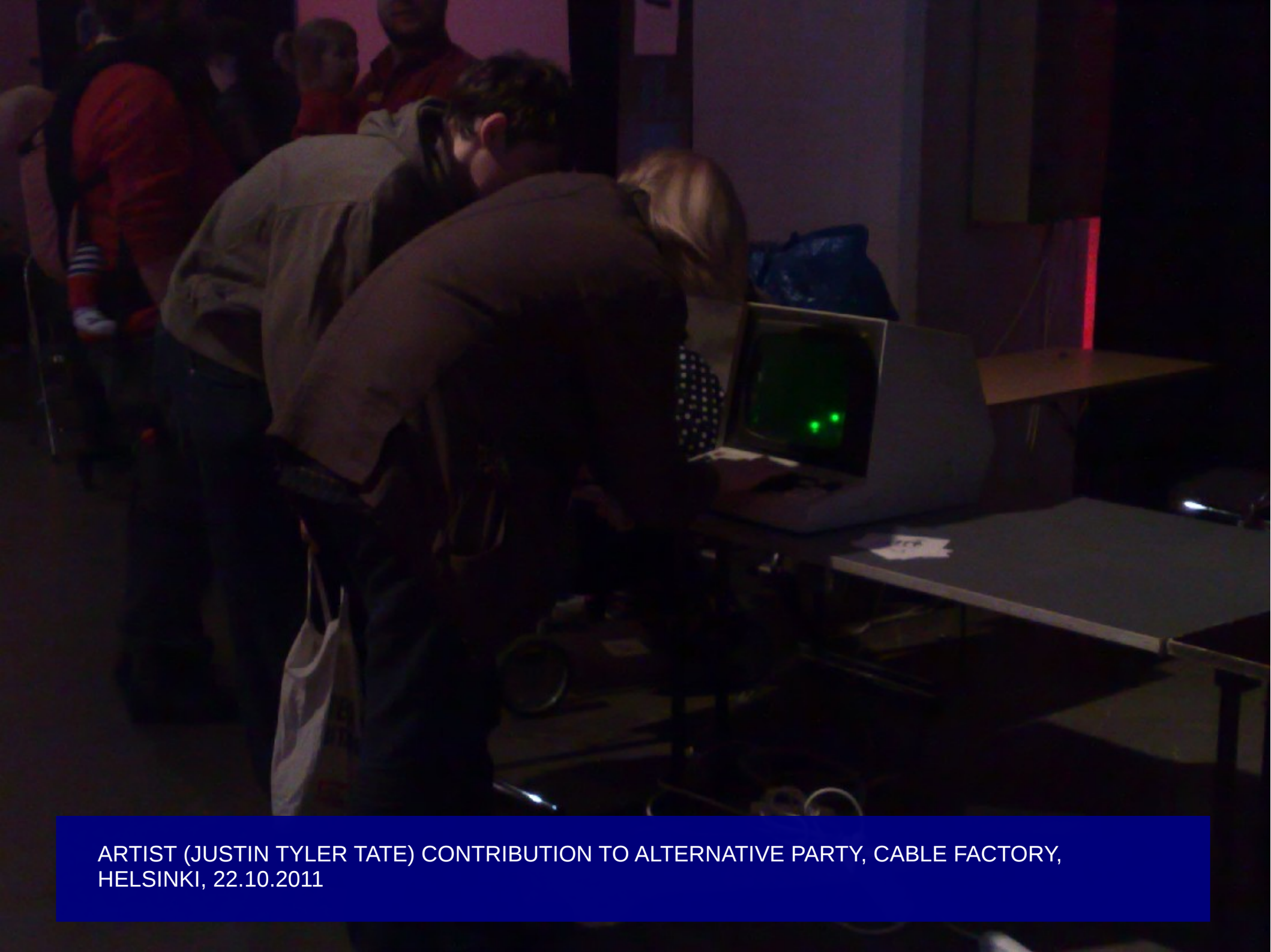


ARTIST (JUSTIN TYLER TATE) CONTRIBUTION TO ALTERNATIVE PARTY, CABLE FACTORY, HELSINKI, 22.10.2011

ARTIST (JUSTIN TYLER TATE) CONTRIBUTION TO ALTERNATIVE PARTY, CABLE FACTORY, HELSINKI, 22.10.2011

**PROGRAMME 2012 -**

PI::ELVERSITY

## PIXELVERSITY
### Aims & objectives for 2012-

* **Outreach & education programme ongoing throughout year**
  Multi- / Trans- disciplinary capacity building, 'care-giving / care-taking' that also includes accumulative skill development

  Maintaining a **‘learning bridge’** between practitioners, cultural & non-profit organisations, interested individuals and larger institutions.

* **Support to travel and spend time together**
  Camps, weekend activity, presenting in each other's events / venues

* **Outreach extending beyond Helsinki identifying commons issues**
  Cross-promotion, support & partnerships

* **Invigorate the concept of Gulf of Finland Community**
  Introduced by Gulf of Finland environment Society SULA in '90s & early '00s..

  Where the community is considered as including humans, animals & plants..
  From an **eco-geographic region perspective**.

**PIXELVERSITY**
**Cluster themes ('placeholders') proposed for 2012-**

*** Gulf of Finland / Finland + NW Russia + Estonia**
Multi- / trans- disciplinary capacity building around Commons issues

**** Renewable Festivals**
Do-it-with-others energy, low-carbon, 'trashlab', sustainable food issues

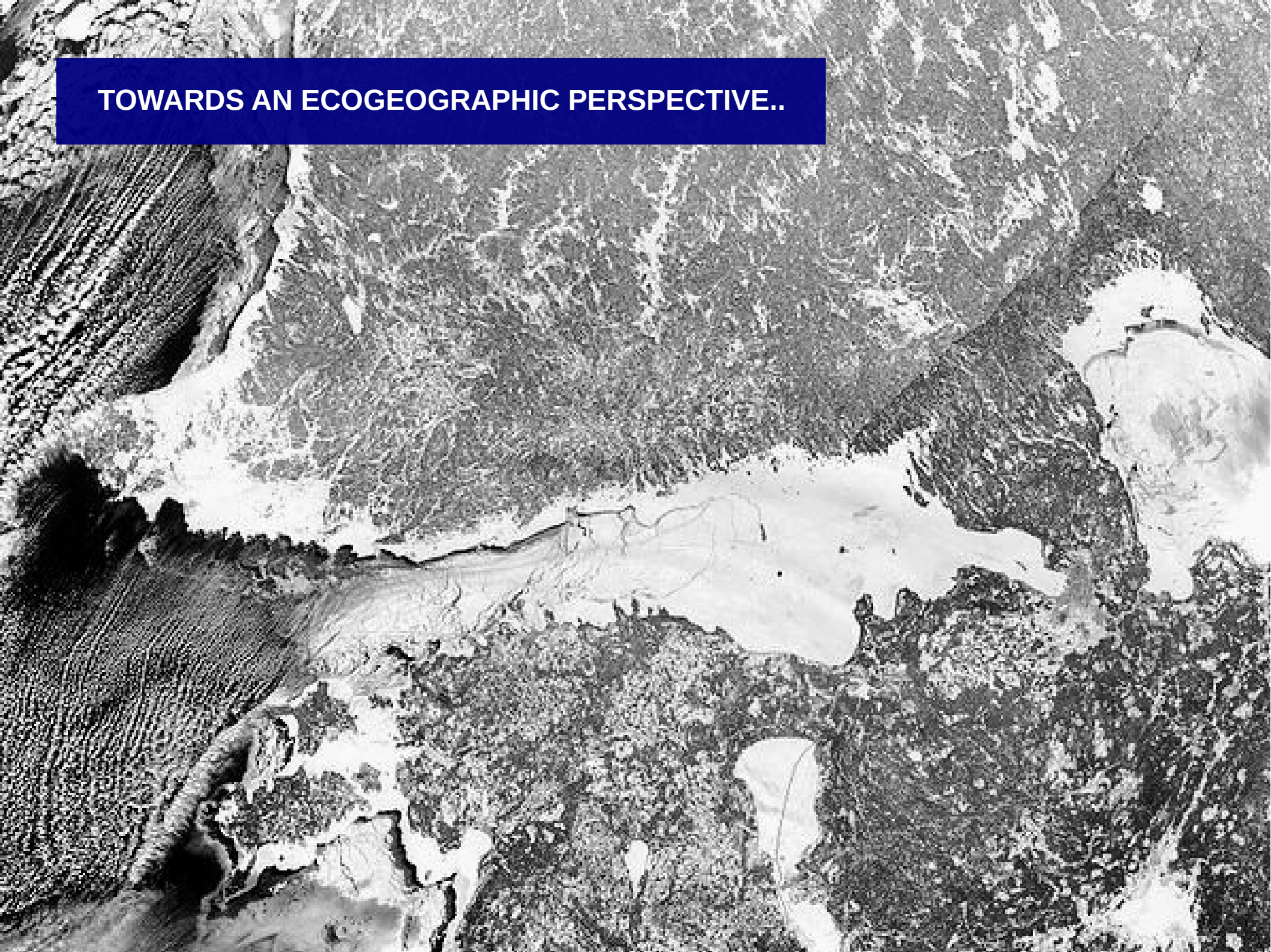
**** Citizen / Public Space & Creative Neighbourhood Skills**
Engaging in neighbourhoods & the economics involved

**** Ecosystem and Environmental Monitoring**
Sensors, gathering ecological data, participatory science book sprint / local workshops

**** Social Identity, Augmented Reality & Virtuality**
Digital tools, interfaces between public / private, personal / social & real / virtual

**** Open Design and Manufacturing**
Mobilising around ‘open design’ protocols and resources

# TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..



## TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

Prompted by >2 yrs conversation with Gulf of Finland environment Society SULA

Extract of '**The Secret of FinRusEst' by Richard Thompson Coon (2011**):

**“Stretching - from the boreal wilderness of northern Karelia**
**to the soft meadows of western Estonia,**
**to all well-wishers,**
**residents of the Gulf of Finland Basin are proud to present**
**the great lakes of Onega, Ladoga, Ilmen and Peipsi, and**
**the whole Finnish Lake District.**

**Providing the Baltic with a quarter of all sweet water,**
**the four great rivers -**
**the untraceable Kymi and the powerful Neva,**
**the luxurious Luga and the sorrowful Narva,**
**whose throat was cut in the 1950ies,**
**did make, once upon a time,**
**the Gulf of Finland a highly-productive, estuarine eco-system.”**

Ref: http://tinyurl.com/secret-of-finrusest

**TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..**
Prompted by >2 yrs conversation with Gulf of Finland environment Society SULA

Extract of **'The Secret of FinRusEst' by Richard Thompson Coon (2011**):

A container installation by Richard Thompson Coon as a compliment to the Rescue Boat Silakka project and as a contribution to Capsula's 'Expedition to the Baltic Sea', European Cultural Capital, Turku 2011**.**

**"Note: Because of the chaos of negatives, slides and prints that was the common nightmare of pre-digital activists, the 20 pictures presented in this slide show are just scans of post-card size prints that were kept for reference. Hopefully one day the original negatives and positives can be dug up from somewhere. The 20 snapshots presented were taken during campaigns and expeditions around the Gulf of Finland during the 1990ies and first few years of this century.”**

Ref: http://tinyurl.com/secret-of-finrusest

## TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..
**Some definitions (Westing, 1989: 2):**

* 'Region' is used.. "to denote a geographical area that is **unified** in an ecological sense, gaining its integrity from this cohesion”

* An **Ecogeographic region** is “an ecological system, or ecosystem.. a unit made up of living and 'non-living' components of the environment that interact to form a **life-support system**”

* “An ecogeographic region functions to some extent independently of the regions contiguous to it, of more distant regions, and of the globe as a whole..

However it is by **no means fully self-contained [but] a part of the Global Biosphere**”

## TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

**Some definitions (Westing, 1989: 2):**

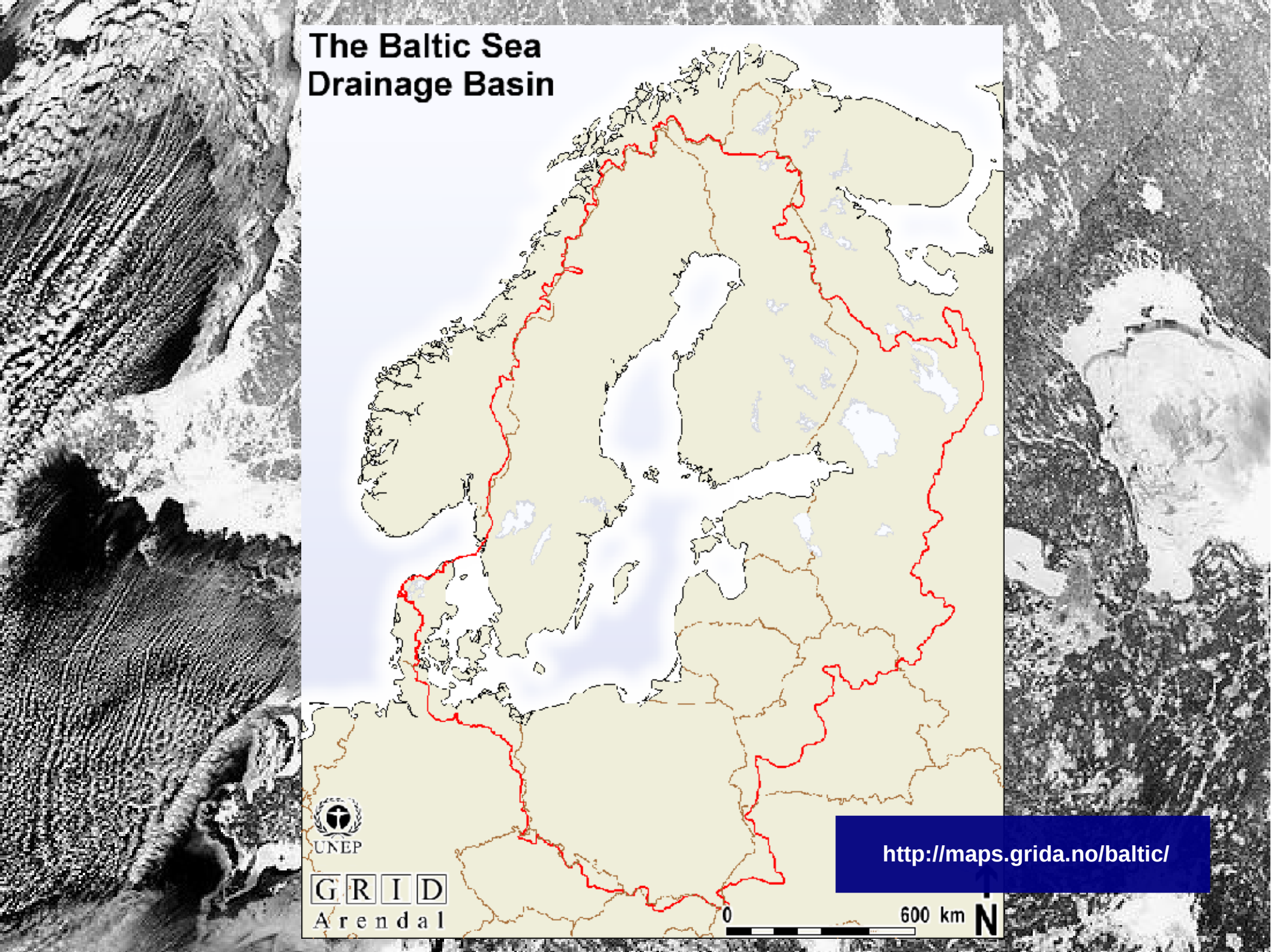
* **“Can be terrestrial or aquatic (freshwater or marine)” or include both; “Can be inhabited or not”; “can subsume either or both of territorial (national) and extra-territorial (common-heritage) areas**”

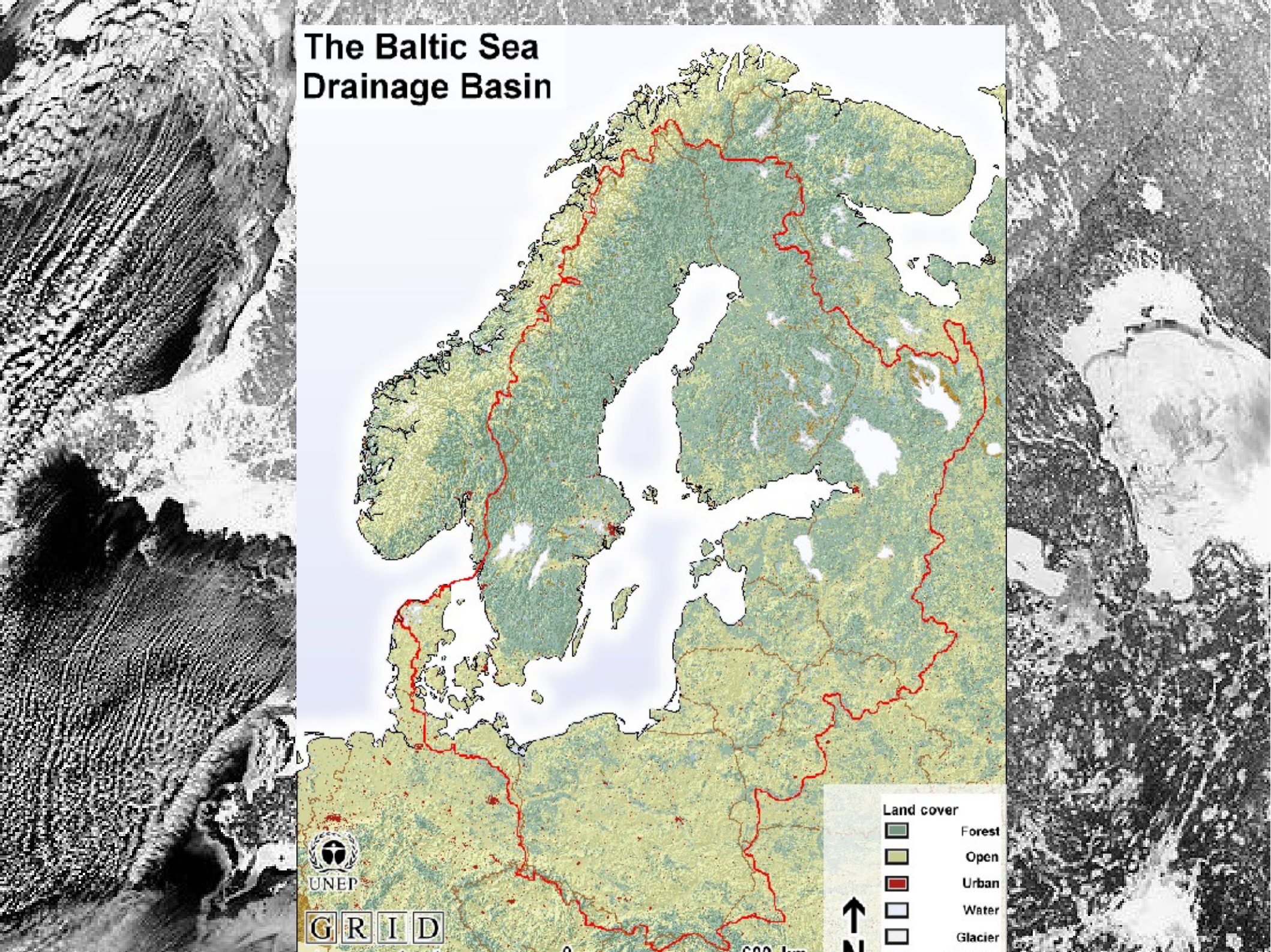
* “[T]he criteria that contribute to its definition should be extended to **Include basic agricultural and silvicultural self-sufficiency**”

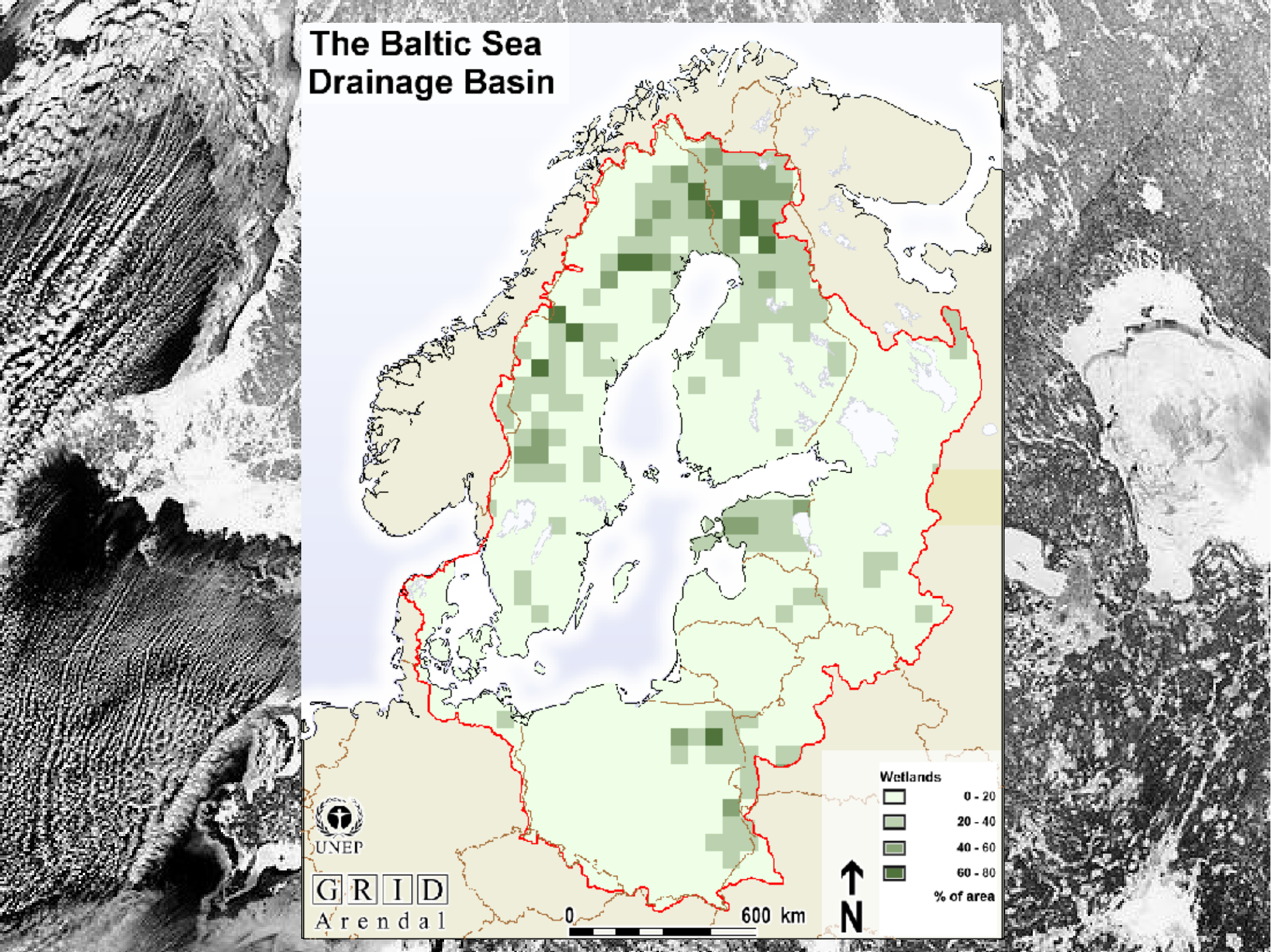
* “It is **never possible to define the boundaries** of an ecogeographic region **with enormous precision**, although approximate limits can often be established..”

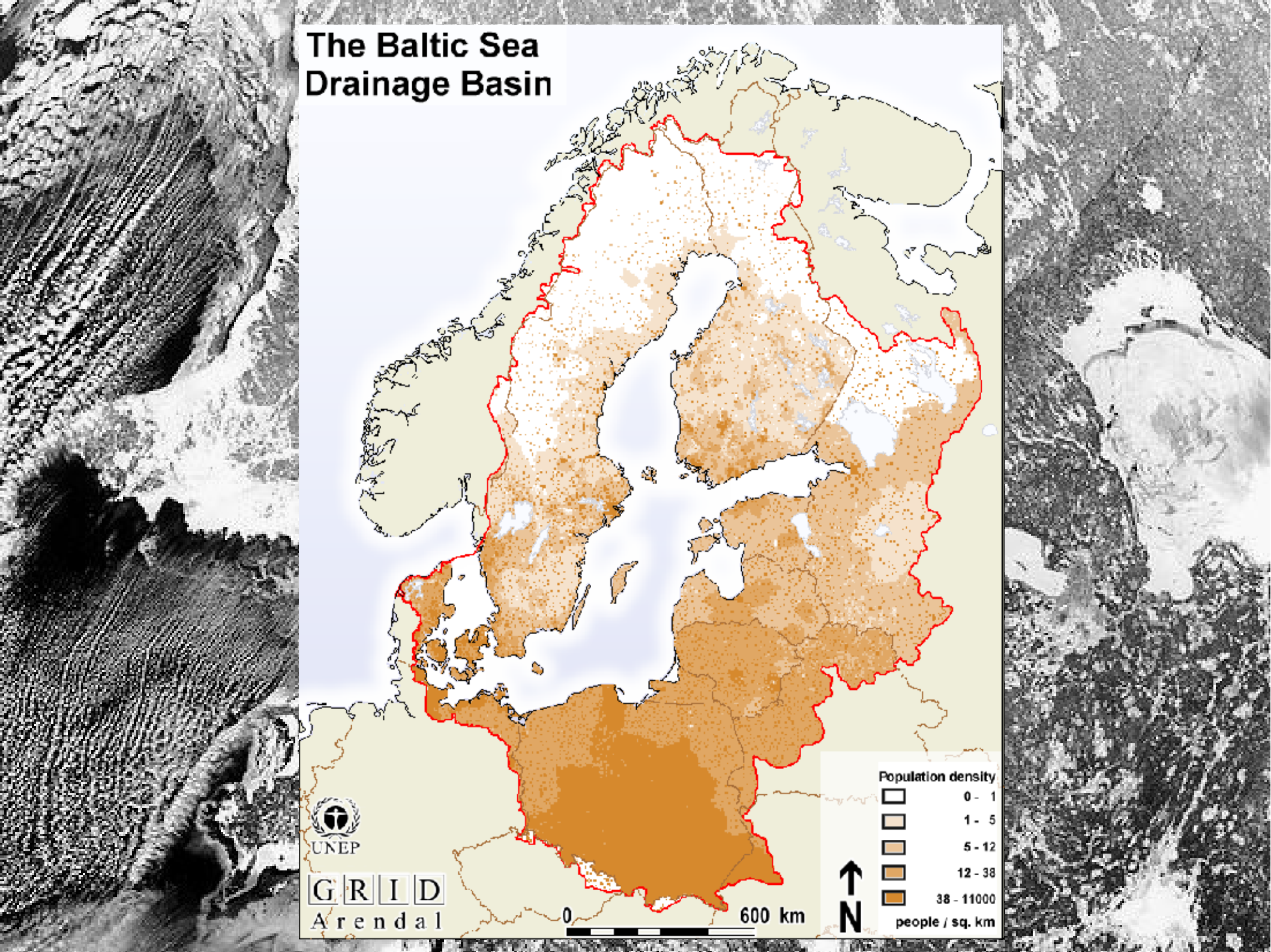
* “Examples.. are **seas with their associated drainage basins** (watersheds, catchment areas), major rivers with their associated drainage basins, major mountain ranges, major islands or peninsulas, insular aggregations, deserts, tundras, and permanently ice-covered areas.”

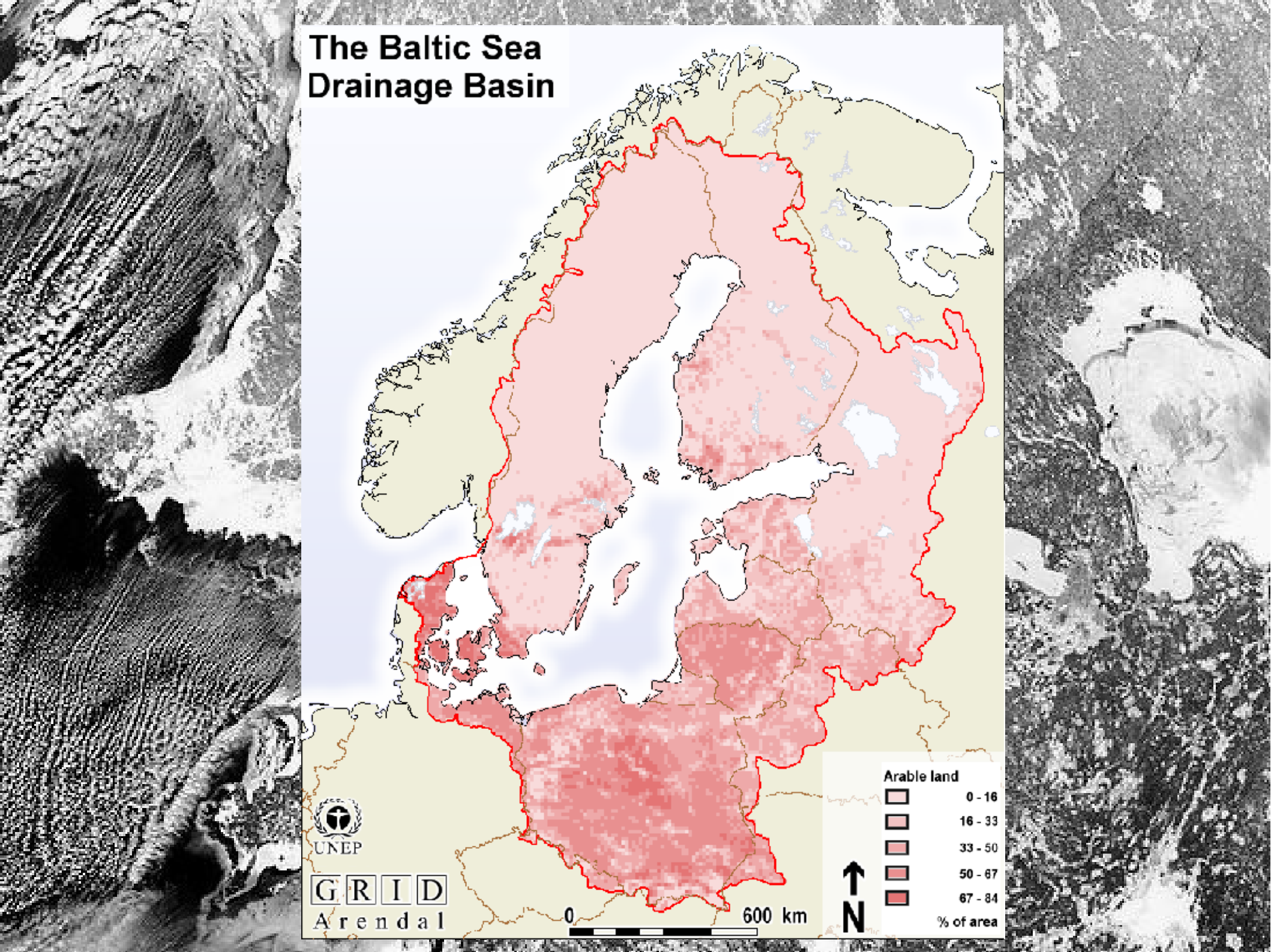
* “**Various sorts of socially-determined regions** (ethnic ones, linguistic ones, political ones..) are.. **superimposed upon ecogeographic regions**”

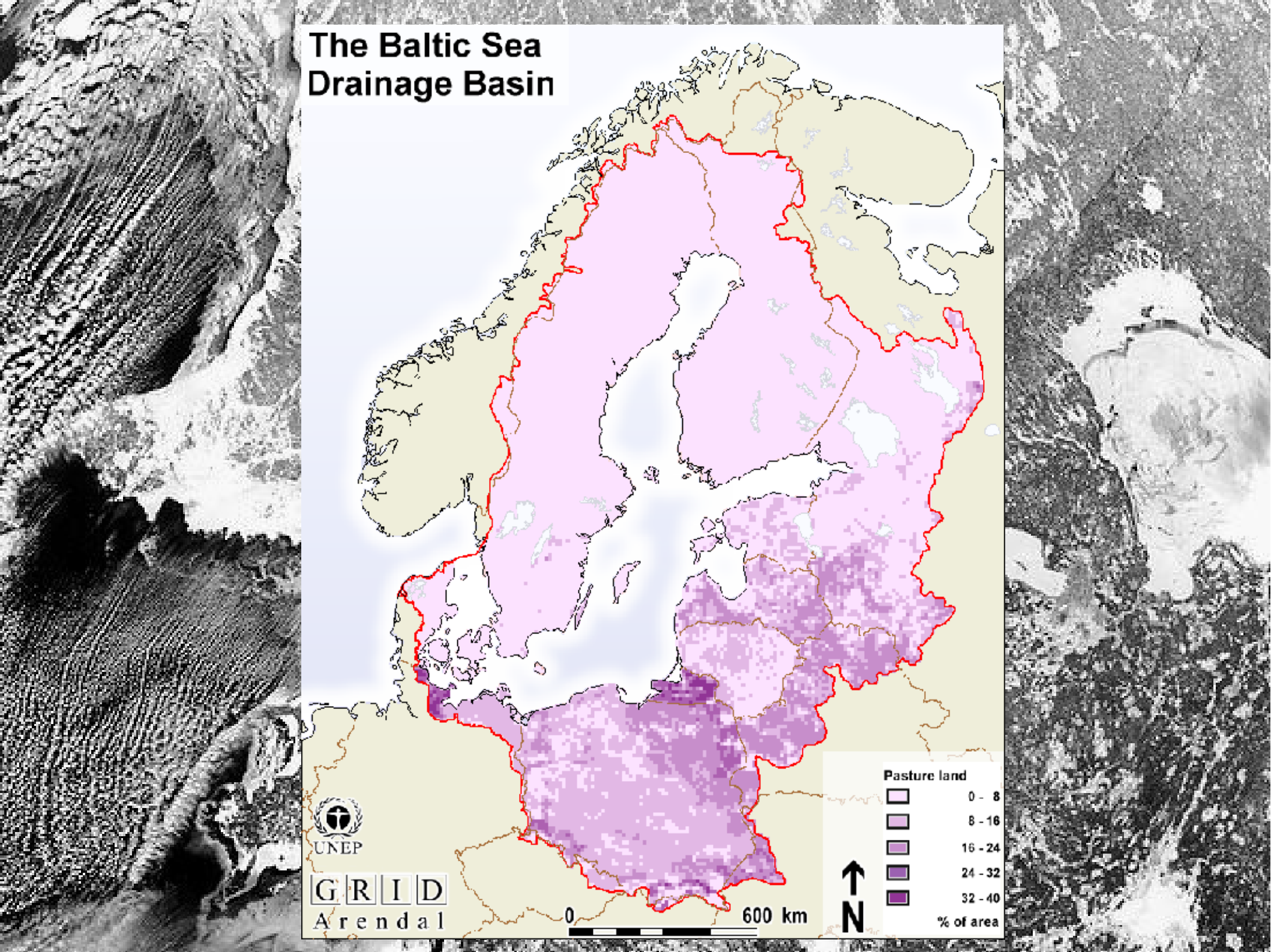

The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
UNEP
GRID
Arendal
0
600 km
N
http://maps.grida.no/baltic/

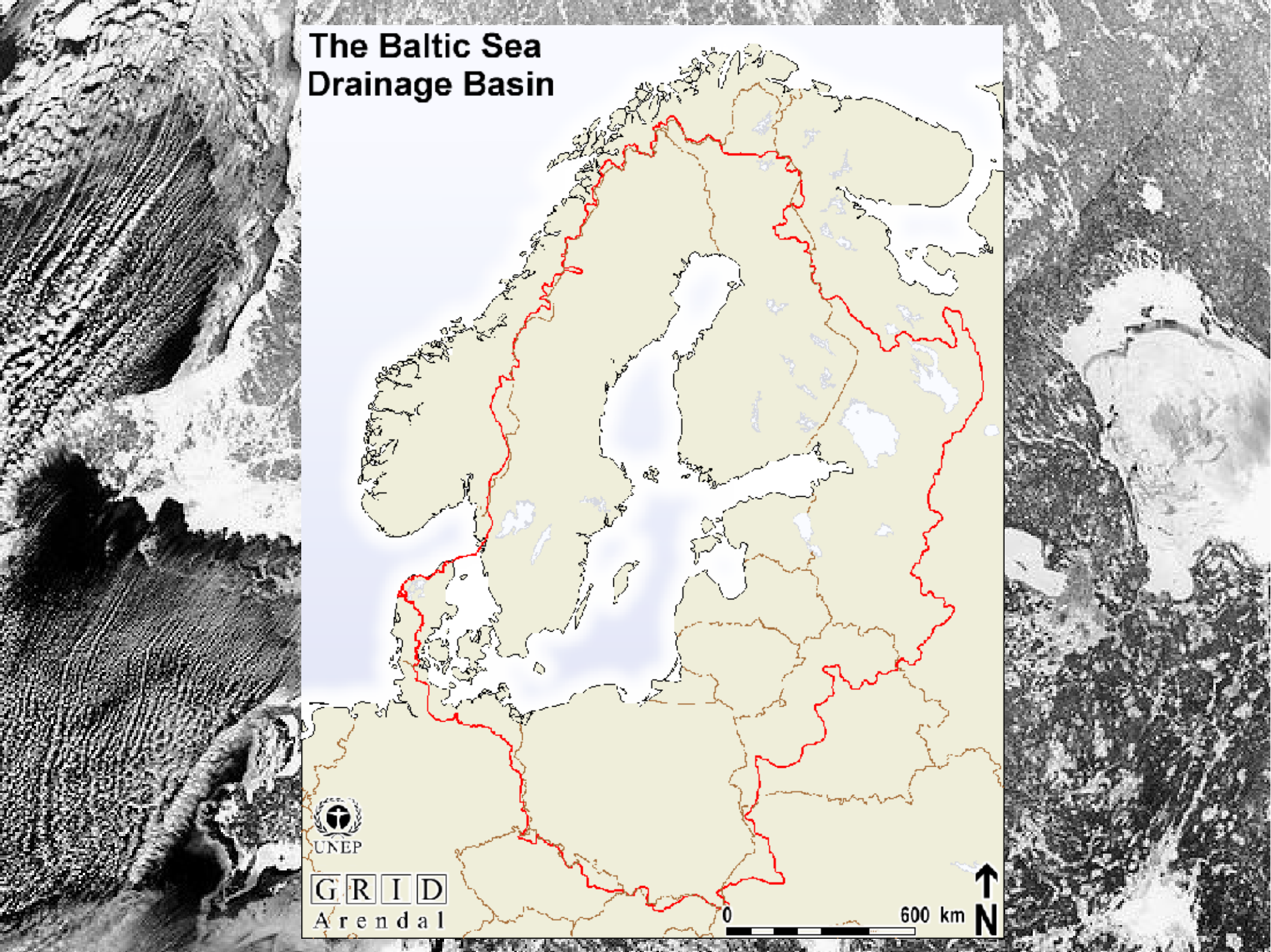

The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
Land cover
Forest
Open
Urban
Water
Glacier
UNEP
GRID

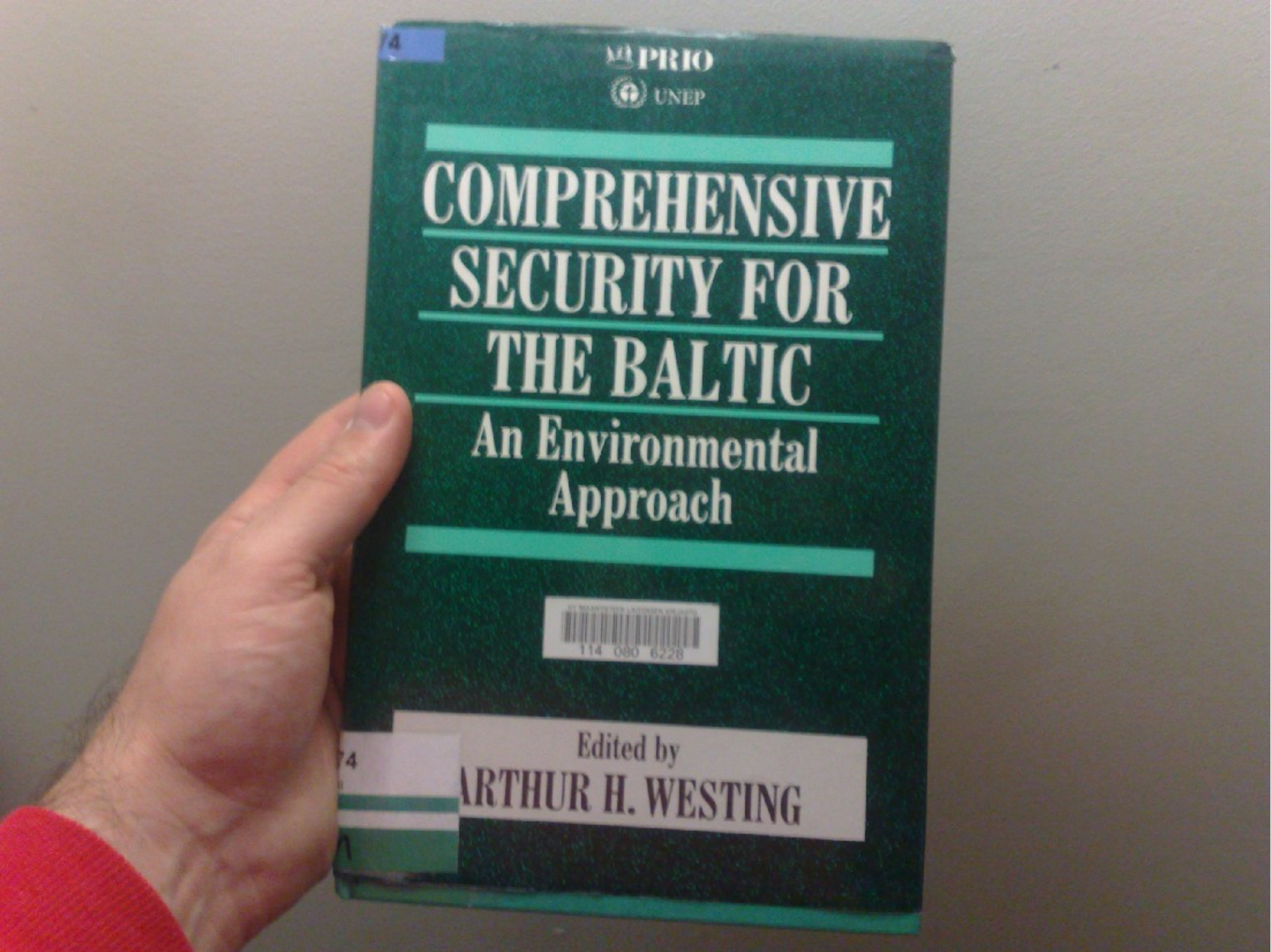

The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
Wetlands
0 - 20
20 - 40
40 - 60
60 - 80
% of area
N
0
600 km
UNEP
GRID
Arendal


The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
Population density
0 - 1
1 - 5
5 - 12
12 - 38
38 - 11000
people / sq. km
N
0
600 km
UNEP
GRID
Arendal


The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
Arable land
0 - 16
16 - 33
33 - 50
50 - 67
67 - 84
% of area
N
0
600 km
UNEP
GRID
Arendal


The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
Pasture land
0 - 8
8 - 16
16 - 24
24 - 32
32 - 40
% of area
N
0
600 km
UNEP
GRID
Arendal


The Baltic Sea
Drainage Basin
UNEP
GRID
Arendal
0
600 km
N


PRIO
UNEP
COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY FOR THE BALTIC
An Environmental Approach
114 080 6228
Edited by
ARTHUR H. WESTING

## TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

**Opening question (Westing, 1989: 1):**

* **“[T]o what extent does regional cooperation on environmental protection and nature-resource utilization serve as a confidence-building measure for the purpose of fostering comprehensive international security?”**

.

On starting this investigation/approach, I believe:

* There is a necessity to develop trans-disciplinary capacities to engage on/in Commons issues

* That cultural workers (such as those gathering around Techno-ecologies) can contribute to environmental protection and sustainabile nature-resource utilisation/management

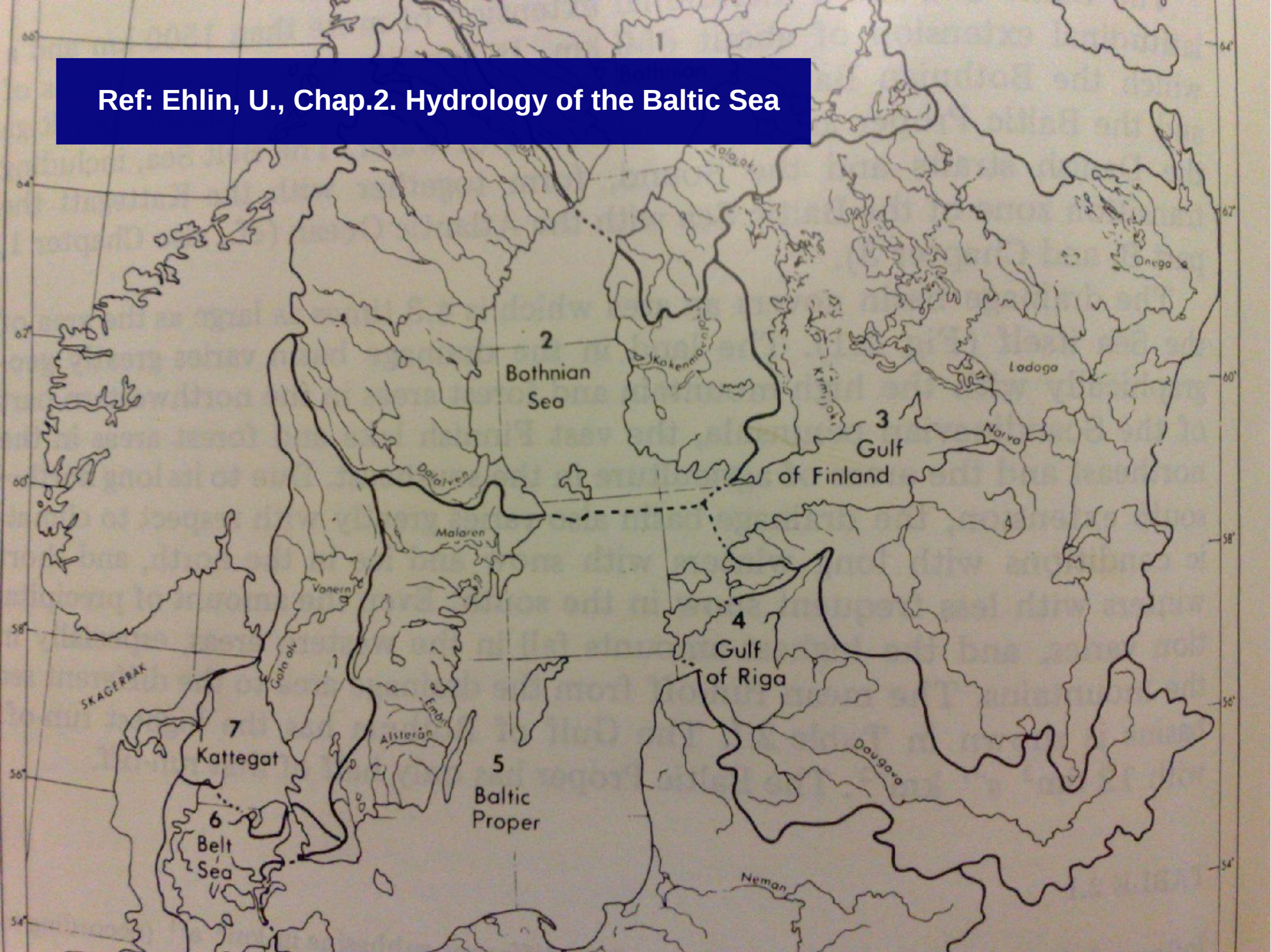
* Active cultural organisations should lead the way with example, especially those with network-building & -facillitation experience

AARNO VOIPIO (EDITOR)

# THE BALTIC SEA

ELSEVIER OCEANOGRAPHY SERIES

**Ref: Ehlin, U., Chap.2. Hydrology of the Baltic Sea**



1
Bothnian
Bay
2
Bothnian
Sea
3
Gulf
of Finland
4
Gulf
of Riga
5
Baltic
Proper
6
Belt
Sea
7
Kattegat
SKAGERRAK
Umeå
Kalix
Kalixälven
Kymijoki
Onega
Ladoga
Narva
Dalälven
Mälaren
Vänern
Göta älv
Emån
Alsterån
Daugava
Nemun

## TOWARDS AN ECOGEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE..

**Questions and thoughts:**

* What will be the effect on cultural organisational work if we do it **mostly within our Ecogeographic subregion of Baltic Sea (ie Gulf of Finland)?**

* **Where do we find the resources and finances to support it?**
  Do the funding instruments support this from top-down?
  Can we raise the support from grass-roots from the bottom-up?

* **There is currently no obvious cultural funding/support for ecogeographic regions** (in Gulf of Finland between Finland, Russia, Estonia, and Belarus) Maybe Nordic Culture Point?

* **Who would be good partners and collaborators?**
  - Environmental/Educational NGO Sector, Instiitutional scientific research,
  - Art+Communications/Techno-ecologies -type practitioners and researchers
  - Cultural associations and activist groups
  - Schools and educational/participatory science groups
  - Baltic Sea Ambassadors movement

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**PALDIES / СРАСИБО / KIITOS / AITÄH / THANKS!**

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